

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A method of applying a blur to an image, the method comprising the steps of:
 - defining a primary kernel to compute an output pixel as a weighted average of a plurality of pixels of the image wherein a spatial relationship between the output pixel and the plurality of pixels is determined by a step size of the primary kernel;
 - applying the primary kernel to each pixel of the image to produce an intermediate result;
 - increasing the step size of the primary kernel to create a higher order primary kernel and applying the higher order primary kernel to the intermediate result to produce a result image.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
 - defining a secondary kernel to compute an output pixel as a weighted average of a plurality of pixels of the image wherein a spatial relationship between the output pixel and the plurality of pixels is determined by a step size of the secondary kernel and wherein the weighted average of the secondary kernel is different from the weighted average of the primary kernel;
 - applying the secondary kernel to each pixel of the result image to produce a second intermediate result.
3. (original) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
 - determining a final result by interpolating between the result image and the second intermediate result.
4. (original) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
 - applying the secondary kernel to each pixel of the second intermediate result to produce a third intermediate result; and
 - determining a final result by interpolating between the second intermediate result and the third intermediate result.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step size is further increased to create a successively higher order primary kernel and the successively higher order primary kernel is applied to a previous intermediate result to produce a next intermediate result until a predetermined step size limit is reached.
6. (original) The method of any of claims 1–5 wherein the blur is a Gaussian blur computed by performing each step in a horizontal direction and in a vertical direction.
7. (original) The method of any of claims 1–5 wherein the blur is a blur selected from the group consisting of: a motion blur, a zoom blur, a radial blur, and a spatially dependent blur.
8. (original) The method of any of claims 1–5 wherein the steps are performed by a plurality of GPU fragment programs.
9. (original) The method of any of claims 1–5 wherein the step size is computed proportional to a regular factor raised to a power determined by a current kernel application step number.
10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein the step size is horizontal in even subpasses and vertical in odd subpasses.
11. (currently amended) A ~~machine-computer~~ readable medium having embodied thereupon instructions executable by a ~~machine-computer~~ to perform the following method steps:
 - defining a primary kernel to compute an output pixel as a weighted average of a plurality of pixels of the image wherein a spatial relationship between the output pixel and the plurality of pixels is determined by a step size of the primary kernel;
 - applying the primary kernel to each pixel of the image to produce an intermediate result;
 - increasing the step size of the primary kernel to create a higher order primary kernel and applying the higher order primary kernel to the intermediate result to produce a result image.

12. (currently amended) The ~~machine-computer~~ readable medium of claim 11, wherein the method steps executable by the ~~machine-computer~~ further comprise:
- defining a secondary kernel to compute an output pixel as a weighted average of a plurality of pixels of the image wherein a spatial relationship between the output pixel and the plurality of pixels is determined by a step size of the secondary kernel and wherein the weighted average of the secondary kernel is different from the weighted average of the primary kernel;
 - applying the secondary kernel to each pixel of the result image to produce a second intermediate result.
13. (currently amended) The ~~machine-computer~~ readable medium of claim 12, wherein the method steps executable by the ~~machine-computer~~ further comprise:
- determining a final result by interpolating between the result image and the second intermediate result.
14. (currently amended) The ~~machine-computer~~ readable medium of claim 11, wherein the method steps executable by the machine further comprise:
- applying the secondary kernel to each pixel of the second intermediate result to produce a third intermediate result; and
 - determining a final result by interpolating between the second intermediate result and the third intermediate result.
15. (currently amended) The ~~machine-computer~~ readable medium of any of claims 11–14 wherein the step size is computed proportional to a regular factor raised to a power determined by a current kernel application step number.
16. (currently amended) The ~~machine-computer~~ readable medium of claim 15 wherein the step size is horizontal in even subpasses and vertical in odd subpasses.